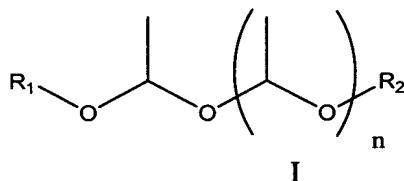


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An acetaldehyde precursor ~~according to~~ comprising formula I



wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected such that both are $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, or both are linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues, and $n=1-10$, with the proviso that, when R_1 and R_2 are selected such that both are $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $n=1, 2, 3$ or 4 .

Claim 2. (Original) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein n is 1, 2 or 3 and R_1 and R_2 are both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Claim 3. (Original) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein n is 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 and the linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues are water-soluble.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1[[-3]] as a flavoring or fragrance agent.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1[[-3]] as a component of [[a]] the flavoring or fragrance formulation.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an

acetaldehyde precursor according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~.

- Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~.
- Claim 8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 6 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
- Claim 9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The consumable product according to claim 7 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
- Claim 10. (New) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.
- Claim 11. (New) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.
- Claim 12. (New) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.
- Claim 13. (New) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 12 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
- Claim 14. (New) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.
- Claim 15. (New) The consumable product according to claim 14 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

- Claim 16. (New) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.
- Claim 17. (New) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.
- Claim 18. (New) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 19. (New) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 18 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
- Claim 20. (New) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 21. (New) The consumable product according to claim 20 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which $n = 1$, $n = 2$ or $n = 3$, and R_1 and R_2 both $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$.